

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-8 are now pending in the application. Applicants hereby cancel claim 2 without disclaimer or prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4-6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parker et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,260,979) in view of Dorr (U.S. Pat. No. 5,477,330). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2 according to the Examiner's suggestion. Similarly, Applicants amended claim 3 into independent form. Claims 4, 6, and 8, as well as claim 7, depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, which Applicants now believe is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-8 should be allowable.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

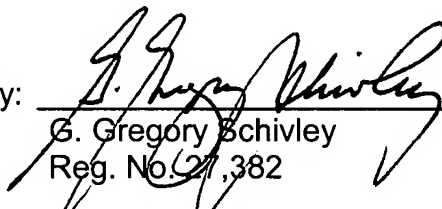
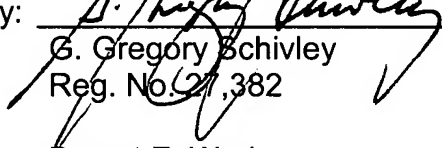
The Examiner states that claims 2, 3, and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2. Applicants amended claim 3 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 1 and 3, as well as their corresponding dependent claims, should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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